

## **Rethinking our country**

We have witnessed facts that, hardly, we could have imagined would occur in our country. They have surely provoked in you different emotions in different moments of the last days: anguish, desolation, hope, hopelessness, shock, indignation, sadness and solidarity, among others.

We are facing the biggest institutional crisis our democracy has had since the end of the dictatorship. I hope that none of you or your families have been affected by the several abuses that have occurred during these days. A solid democracy cannot allow them to occur and if so, they must be punished by justice. The protection of public order and respect for those who manifest themselves peacefully are at the base of the freedoms of a society that claims to be inclusive, diverse and open.

It is difficult to think that an experience as complex as the one experienced these days has one or few causes. I am convinced that we must distrust simple explanations, especially if we are in a university that aspires not only to create knowledge but to apply it to understand the various political, social, economic, cultural, communicational and psychological phenomena involved in personal interactions.

In that sense, as a university we must harness the energy and motivation of students, academics and collaborators to rethink our country with humility and willing to challenge our own convictions. If we make a selfless reflection in the Community we can contribute to rethink a new “social contract” for the country that not only takes into account the events of the last days but also the review of the last 30 years of recovery of democracy that also coincides with the birth of Adolfo Ibáñez as a University. It is an exercise that will enrich us as a community.

Tomorrow and Friday, as well as next week, we want to have days of reflection that, in this first stage, give us space to share our impressions of the situation we have experienced and allow us to share reflections and projections about the future. They are completely voluntary and limited instances. Later we want these reflections to be transformed into a dialogue that concludes in a contribution to the country that helps him heal his wounds and promote transformations that make us a better country, where no one is postponed and everyone feels they have a real opportunity to develop their life projects without coercion of an external nature.

**Harald Beyer, UAI Rector.**